

Broad Street Substation Inductor Project FAQ

What is the Broad Street Substation Inductor Project?

This project includes system improvements at the Broad Street Substation that include installing new equipment. This upgrade is necessary to meet energy demands of our growing region and reduce the chances of outages. Working in conjunction with the Denny Substation, the Broad Street Substation will more reliably deliver power to customers and increase the reliability of our region's grid.

Where is the substation located?

It is located near Seattle Center on the block between Harrison and Thomas streets and 6th Avenue North and Broad Street.

What does the Broad Street Substation do?

The Broad Street Substation not only distributes electricity to local neighborhoods, but is also an important facility for the transmission of high voltage electricity to the region.

How will the Broad Street Substation support the regional transmission grid?

Seattle City Light has partnered with Puget Sound Energy and the Bonneville Power Administration to improve the reliability of the regional electric transmission grid. Since the early 2000s, the transfer of electricity around the Puget Sound area has sometimes been limited due to congestion in this grid. Along with other projects, The Broad Street Substation Inductor Project will reduce congestion and upgrade the reliability of the transmission system, lessening the risk of region-wide customer power outages in the future.

What is required in order to install the new equipment?

Seattle City Light is considering two options for the installation of new electrical equipment. We will evaluate both options for their technical and engineering merits, costs, long-term benefits and flexibility. This project will also be reviewed by federal, state and local agencies to make sure that it complies with their requirements and regulations.

What are the two options for installation?

Option A would expand the substation beyond its current fence line at its northwest corner. Expansion would require the *vacation* of a portion of the closed section of Broad Street near Harrison Street and Taylor Avenue N.

Even though Broad Street has been permanently closed to accommodate the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Project, City Light is still required to go through the *street vacation* process. The result of street vacation would be the transfer of ownership of a small, triangleshaped portion of Broad Street (near Harrison Street and Taylor Avenue N.) from the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to Seattle City Light. Acquisition of this segment of the right-of-way would allow City Light to expand the boundary of the substation and create space and greater flexibility for arranging the new equipment.

Option B would not include street vacation. This option would maintain the current substation footprint and require installation of new equipment above the current fence height at the northeast corner of the substation. This option, if feasible, limits flexibility for any future expansion, improvements or operational repairs to the substation. The feasibility of this option will be determined once the preliminary design is completed.

What is Street Vacation?

Street vacation refers to the process whereby a property owner (in this case, City Light) petitions City Council to acquire adjacent street right-of-way for use other than as a public roadway. The portion of Broad Street proposed for street vacation is a permanently closed road that is no longer in use and would be used for substation expansion.

What are the benefits of this project?

The new equipment at the Broad Street Substation will reduce congestion on our regional power grid and upgrade the reliability of the transmission system, lessening the risk of customer power outages in the future.

Are other agencies contributing to the funding of the project since it benefits the whole region?

Bonneville Power Administration, Puget Sound Energy and Seattle City Light each pay one third of the total actual cost of the Broad Street Substation Inductor Project.

What is an inductor?

Inductors are electrical wire coils through which electric current passes. When installed on a transmission line, the inductor moderates the flow of electricity on the transmission line, thus balancing the electrical load that travels through the regional grid.

Why can't you install the inductor at the new Denny Substation?

Two parallel transmission lines come into the Broad Street Substation from the south. Both of those lines require inductors. Only one of the lines goes through the Denny Substation, so only one inductor can be installed at Denny Substation.

How can I stay involved or find out more?

Check out our website for periodic updates, follow us on social media, or send as an email at SCL_BroadSub@seattle.gov. You can also call our hotline with a question or comment for the project team.

Email: scl_broadsub@seattle.gov

Website: www.seattle.gov/light/broadsub

Project Hotline: 206-801-3528



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